

City of Nampa

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Memorandum

Date: 10/12/2021

To: Reapportionment Commission (Co-chair Bart Davis, Co-chair Dan Schmidt, Tom Dayley, Nels Mitchell, Amber Pence, Eric Redman)
Cc: Nampa City Council
From: Mayor Debbie Kling and Rick Hogaboam (Chief of Staff; Legislative Affairs)

RE: 2021 Reapportionment for Idaho Legislative Districts

2021 Commission for Reapportionment,

Thank you for serving in this important task that affects all the citizens of Idaho and ensures that all Idahoans are equally represented in their respective legislative districts. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input as you weigh the collective input of the public in response to your initial proposed legislative map. We also want to thank you for hosting a public meeting here in Nampa at our City Hall. I wish to provide some feedback that will hopefully aid in your efforts to make a decision that best represents the concerns of Mayor Kling and various members of our Nampa City Council. The feedback will follow three main thought progressions, as follows:

- Feedback on the current map.
- Feedback on the proposed map.
- Our consensus preferences for the City of Nampa with reference to Sen. Jim Rice's proposed map as an exhibit that accomplishes most of what we'd like to see.

First, we wish to express one major concern and source of confusion among residents with the current map (pictured in Exhibit A). The wrap-around district (District 11) covers Middleton and then wraps east around Districts 10, 12, and 13 into the southern sections of Nampa's city limits and area of impact. It's confusing for our city residents in the southern part of the city why they share a legislative district with Middleton while three other legislative districts separate the population center of Middleton and our south Nampa residents in a more direct line.

Second, the newly proposed map (pictured as Exhibit B) retains a wrap-around district that is similar to the existing wrap-around district mentioned in our first point. In this case,

District 10 would wrap around Districts 11, 12, and 13. While this district doesn't wrap around to cover most of south Nampa (like the existing District 11), it does wrap around to cover southwest Nampa, an area projected to grow over the next decade. In addition to the wrap-around district taking in the southwest portion of the city, another district (District 23) is proposed to encroach into the southeast part of the city, a district that extends east almost to Twin Falls. This proposed map would add even more confusion for Nampa residents, splitting the growing southern section of our city into two legislative districts that are drastically distinct from the rest of the city.

Third, our consensus goals are similar to your goals, which is to ensure that every Idahoan is as equally represented as possible in districts that represent the contextual concerns of respective regions throughout the state.

- In the proposed map, every legislative district covering our area of impact is already at or above the average population target, and we anticipate rapid growth in our city over the next decade. This would further minimize the apportionment of our citizens relative to districts to the east in areas that are more built-out. We would prefer that any districts covering the city of Nampa be as close to equal as neighboring districts or even slightly below when considering that Nampa is one of the fastest-growing cities in the state.
- Because Nampa residents are intimately aware of concerns that are unique to our city and make up more of an urban and suburban demographic, it's preferred that city residents aren't pulled into legislative districts that are mostly outside the city and consist of a different demographic with distinct concerns. Nampa residents are used to voting in municipal elections, local school board districts, local highway districts, local fire districts, and Canyon County elections. Taking an informed resident focused on local needs and splicing them off into a legislative district that encompasses different counties and taxing districts that they are not a part would create challenges as far as representation. Additionally, city residents are used to having local elected officials that live in close proximity to their place of residence with the apportionment of the respective districts they live within. Placing a resident in a legislative district of around 50,000 people where the representative lives over an hour away when they're used to voting for a mayor they live in closer proximity to in a city over 100,000 creates a disproportionate sense of representation relative to their legislative district that we would rather not see.
- We respectfully request that any final decision avoids claiming precincts in our city for districts that wrap around multiple districts or into a large rural district that extends almost to Twin Falls. Please keep our city and area of impact as intact within legislative districts as possible. This will ensure that Nampa residents are

more likely to be represented by fellow residents within the city with mutual interests and priorities.

Lastly, as a point of reference, we've included a picture of the affected areas under Sen. Jim Rice's submitted map (Exhibit C) as an example that more fully represents the preferences articulated in this letter. While not explicitly endorsing all the specifics of the map, we are pleased with how it mitigates against the southern portion of the city being pulled into two other legislative districts that extend mostly outside of the city. This map keeps Nampa as intact as possible within Districts 12 and 13. We understand that part of Nampa might need to be apportioned into a third district, but rather than taking part of south Nampa and wrapping around to Middleton and taking another part of Nampa and extending that district east across counties, Sen. Rice's map takes the northern section of the city and adjoins it to Middleton in a more logical, proximate district without wrap-arounds to the opposite section of the city. If Nampa is going to be connected to a neighboring community in a third district, it makes sense to be immediately adjacent to community within the same county. This map would place Nampa residents within three legislative districts, all within the same county and two of districts mostly intact within the city. The only shared district would adjoin geographic neighbors. We hope to see a similar outcome in your final recommendation as this would best serve the mutual and collective interests of the residents of Nampa and specific needs of our city as a whole. We understand that your job is difficult and that there are competing interests and logistical challenges in your task. Thanks for your service, and we look forward to seeing the final outcome of this process.

Exhibit A: Existing Legislative Map

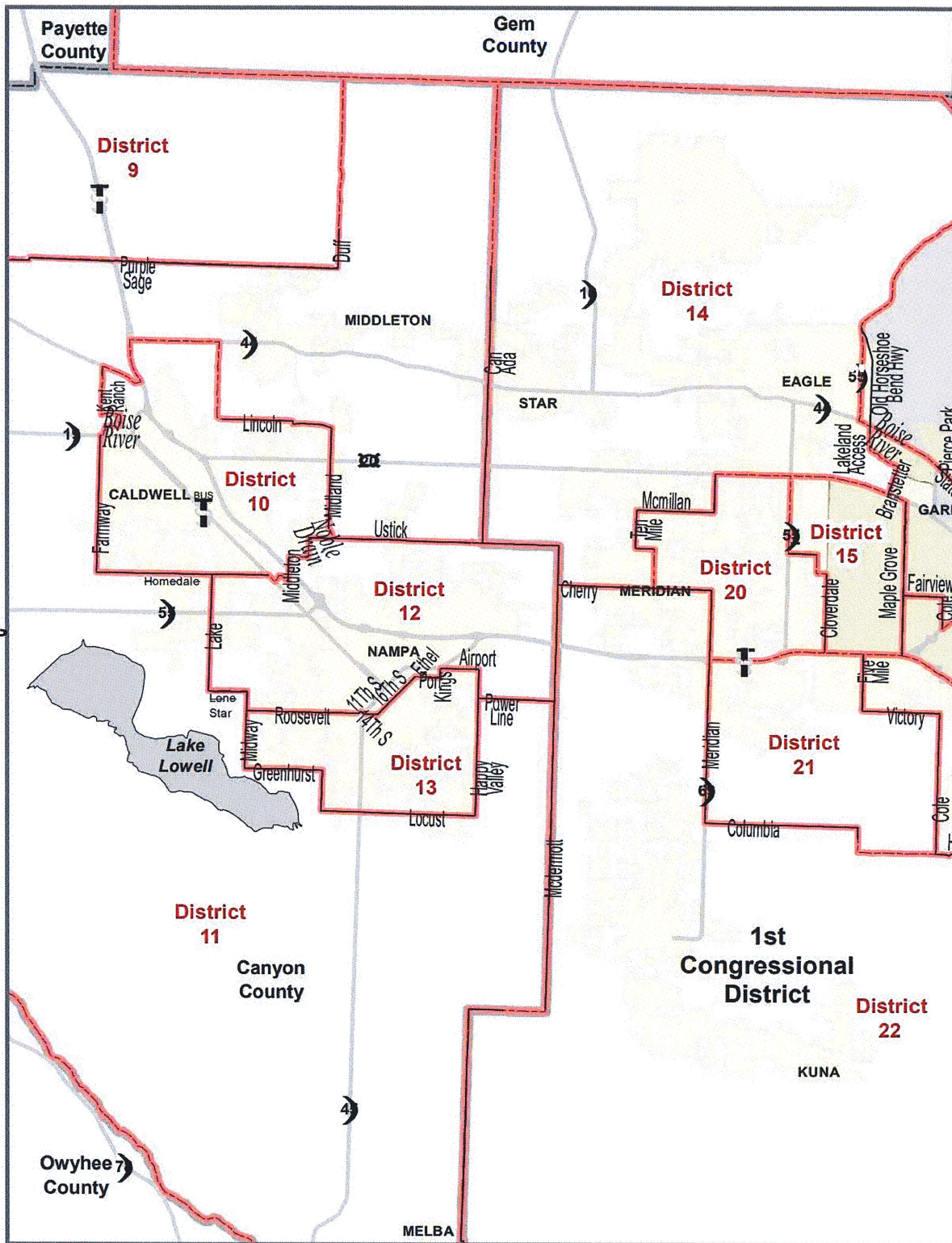


Exhibit B: Proposed Legislative Map

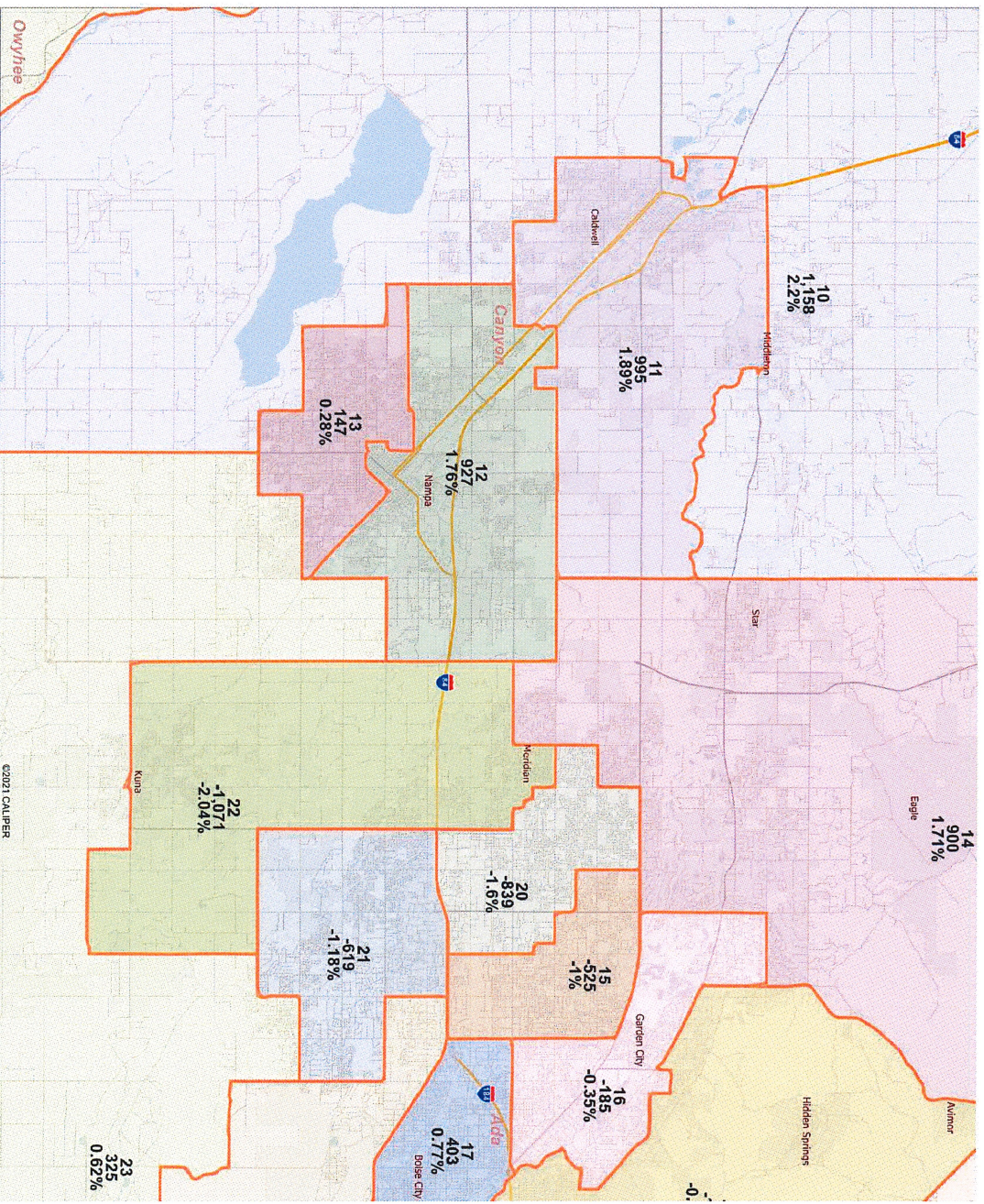


Exhibit C: Sen. Jim Rice's Proposed Map

